

## ORONTIUM IN BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

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MENTION was made at the June meeting of the New England Botanical Club by Mr. F. S. Collins of a specimen of *Orontium aquaticum* which he had collected for the club herbarium in Provincetown. This reminded the writer of an earlier collection of his own in the same town, and led him to look up the records of the species on Cape Cod. There are in the club herbarium specimens of E. and C. E. Faxon, from Truro, August 13, 1890, and of Charles A. Davis, from Provincetown, September 28, 1912. In the Gray Herbarium is a duplicate of the Faxon specimen, and no others from Barnstable County. The only other specimen from southeastern Massachusetts is one of C. H. Morss, from Middleboro. On a Decoration Day trip to Provincetown in 1904, the writer collected flowering specimens. In June, 1913, he collected fruiting material, and in August, 1913, made further observations, in the same region. *Orontium* thus seems to be rather an uncommon plant in this section, and a few notes on its habits might not be out of place.

Practically the whole of Provincetown consists of sand dunes. For a mile or more back of the village there is a low forest growth made up largely of pitch pine and oaks. The hollows among these wooded dunes are occupied by shallow ponds, some of which dry out completely during the summer. In four out of the six or seven seen by the writer, *Orontium* is very abundant. Up to the middle of June, it is the only conspicuous aquatic in these ponds. Later in the season water lilies and rushes also appear in considerable quantities. At blossoming time, in the latter part of May, the yellow spadices stand up plainly above the water, well warranting the common name of Golden Club, and the leaves are also well developed. By the middle of June, the fruit is ripe. The spadices have now bent over, leaving only occasionally an arch above the surface. The leaves, contrary to the description in the Manual, stand erect like those of the Pickerel Weed. Indeed, I have at a distance mistaken both *Orontium* for *Pontederia*, and the reverse. At the end of August, the fruit has practically disappeared. In the dry ponds, the leaves stand stiffly over the mud, while the roots are buried deep in the sand beneath.



It is a curious fact that in the ponds where the Golden Club occurred, no Pickerel Weed could be found, while in all the others it was abundant.

In one small pond between North Truro and Truro, I saw from the train a few plants of *Orontium*, but it occurs in none of the ponds which I have visited in Orleans and the eastern part of Brewster. There must be other stations for this plant on the Cape. Possibly the superficial resemblance of the leaf to that of *Pontederia* has led to its being overlooked. Future collectors in this region should examine localities like those in Provincetown — shallow ponds, with a layer of muck covering the sandy bottoms.

NEWTONVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

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SCIRPUS OCCIDENTALIS AND ASTER PTARMICOIDES IN CONNECTICUT. — In early September, 1912, I accompanied Dr. Charles C. Godfrey on a collecting trip in northwestern Connecticut, where we expected to see some of the rare or local species made known by the records of several preceding resident or transient botanists. In this our hopes were amply realized. But it is the purpose now to record two species not before recognized in the state.

During a brief interval between torrential rains which beset us during several days, we examined a bit of shore at Beardsley's Pond, in Sharon, and there found *Scirpus occidentalis* (Wats.) Chase in full fruit. High water made collecting difficult but we succeeded in hooking off a small supply of tops.

In the present year, on July 5, we again stopped at the Pond, finding the plants plentiful and apparently destined to fruit freely. The same morning and on the day preceding we had seen an abundance of the same species growing in shallow water at Twin Lakes, in Salisbury — acres of it. Here, after much search, we found a few panicles bearing some immature but characteristic fruit while the great mass of it was, and remained, unfertilized, presenting a peculiar appearance. Dr. Godfrey found very little fruit during August and early September.

The water of Twin Lakes is strongly impregnated with lime which may have been an important reason for lack of fertility although the plants appeared to be of normal luxuriance, at least, if an average of 5–6 ft. out of water coupled with a submergence of 1–2.5 ft. represents thrift.